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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/47/L.34

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 7, 8, 11 and 14 of draft resolution A/47/L.34, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to continue to afford the fullest possible support to the Central American Governments in their efforts to consolidate peace, democracy and development;

(b) Express its appreciation for the effective, timely mediation of the Secretary-General and his representatives and extend them its support so that they can continue to take all necessary steps to contribute to the successful implementation of all the peace agreements in El Salvador;

(c) Express appreciation to the Secretary-General and his Representative for the support they are giving to the negotiationg process (in Guatemala) and encourage them to continue to provide it;

(d) Request the Secretary-General and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide, as appropriate and within available resources, the necessary technical and financial support to the Central American Governments;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

B. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

2. The above request relates to subprogramme 1 (Good offices and peacemaking) of programme 1 (Good offices and peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. While resources are provided in the programme budget for activities in support of the Secretary-General's functions in the area of international peace and security, related activities are often not programmed in the programme budget since their very nature often precludes such an approach. This is true of the Secretary-General's activities in promoting a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would, with respect to the requests outlined in paragraph 1 above:

(a) Continue his current engagement in the settlement of conflicts in the region, specifically in El Salvador and Guatemala, including active and continuous participation in, and monitoring of, the peace process between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), as well as continuous support to, and observation of, the peace process between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolutionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG);

(b) Provide assistance to the negotiating parties in their search for a firm and lasting peace in their respective countries and in the region as a whole;

(c) Prepare a report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution.

4. It may be recalled that, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly authorized one temporary P-5 and one temporary General Service (other level) post for 1992 in the context of its adoption of resolution 46/109 of 17 December 1991 on the situation in Central America. While the continuing activities outlined above are stated in broad and general terms, participation in the search for peace in the region has meant the day-to-day involvement of the Organization in the negotiation process. While the intensive pace of the negotiations, which placed a heavy burden on the Organization in the preceding two years, has abated somewhat, the responsibilities placed on it will continue to be substantial in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the

final phases of the agreement in El Salvador and in order to assist the process in the months following a cease-fire. At the same time, the dialogue conducted in Guatemala continues with the active support and participation of the Organization. In addition to the work undertaken in connection with the processes in El Salvador and Guatemala, the involvement of the United Nations in the efforts for peace in the region also includes participation in such bodies as the Security Commission of the Esquipulas II agreement, whose work the General Assembly, in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, welcomes with satisfaction.

5. In addition to the activities outlined above, the Secretary-General will provide technical and financial support, as appropriate and within available resources, to the Central American Governments for the wider purpose of consolidating the processes of peace, freedom, democracy and development in the region.

6. As noted in section B above, activities in this area are not programmed in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

C. Requirements

7. It is anticipated that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, activities outlined in paragraph 1 above would require the continuation of one Professional (P-5) and one General Service (other level) post to assist in all aspects of the Secretary-General's involvement in the Central American peace processes. The activities would include research and analysis of outstanding negotiating issues, preparation of background papers, maintenance and updating of information and files relating to the peace processes and serving as focal point within the Secretariat for these matters. In particular, it would include the specific task of acting as the Secretary-General's Observer to the Guatemalan negotiating process. In addition, frequent travel to the Central American region is inevitable in the context of the Secretary-General's participation in the peace efforts, or that of his Representative. It is not possible to predict the travel requirements at this point, however, and additional requirements in this respect, if any, will be met through the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/187 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses in 1992-1993.

8. On a full-cost basis, the requirements for staff in 1993 are estimated at $155,200 as follows:

	$
Temporary posts	112 500
Common staff costs	42 700
	155 200

9. No provision has been made for the additional staff required to support the Secretary-General's continuing efforts in this area and it is not anticipated that the related requirements can be absorbed from within the existing appropriations.

10. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/47/L.34, it is estimated that additional net resources of $155,200 would be required for 1993.

11. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, additional expenditures proposed over and above those in the programme budget should be accommodated within a contingency fund, revised to a level of $18 million for the biennium 1992-1993. Paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213, however, provides, inter alia, that revised estimates

> "arising from the impact of extraordinary expenses, including those relating to the maintenance of peace and security, as well as fluctuations in rates of exchange and inflation, shall not be covered by the contingency fund and shall continue to be treated in accordance with established procedures and under the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations and Rules".

12. In the Secretary-General's view, activities pursuant to the draft resolution clearly relate to the maintenance of peace and security. Accordingly, it is also his view that the related requirements of $155,200 that would arise are of an extraordinary nature, relating to the maintenance of peace and security, and should be treated outside the procedures related to the contingency fund.

D. Summary

13. It is estimated that an additional appropriation of $155,200 would be required under section 2 of the programme budget for 1992-1993.

14. Furthermore an additional appropriation of $40,100 would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment) to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

15. The Secretary-General believes that these requirements should be dealt with under the provisions of paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 and should thus be treated outside the procedures related to the contingency fund.